Newtown Square, PA- Recognizing eight decades of members for dedication to their mission of promoting the welfare and humane treatment of animals, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) presented the Chester County SPCA with a Congressional Citation Sunday at the organization's annual Forget-Me-Not Gala. The gala, held at historic Delchester Farm of Newtown Square, featured a Roaring 20's theme and horse and carriage parade. It celebrated the Chester County chapter's 80 years as a private, nonprofit animal welfare group that now offers a variety of programs and services including pet adoption, emergency animal ambulance services, animal cruelty investigations, pet visitations, lost-and-found services, and education programs.

"Since 1929 the Chester County SPCA has been a strong proponent of animal rights and in the process has improved the lives of countless animals who otherwise would have been left alone and unloved," said Congressman Sestak. "Their kindness and empathy for the animals they care for sets an important example of citizenship and compassion. The Chester County SPCA has done a valuable service to our community."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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